

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the subject patent application as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor comprising a belt platform (11) for supporting a belt (19) of the conveyor ~~in use, the conveyor being characterized in that and a platform support arrangement for supporting the belt platform from the ground, wherein:~~

~~substantially the whole of said belt platform (11) is formed as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal;~~

~~said platform support arrangement is a unitary component formed from a single sheet of metal;~~

~~and said conveyor is configured to be constructed substantially without use of welding or threaded fasteners.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor ~~comprising a belt platform (11) for supporting a belt (19) of the conveyor and a platform support arrangement (12, 13; 112, 113, 120) for supporting the belt platform from the ground, the conveyor being characterised in that said as claimed in claim 1, wherein the belt platform (11) and said the platform support arrangement (12, 13; 112, 113, 120) is a unitary component are integrally formed from a single sheet of metal.~~

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor as claimed in claim 1 or Claim 2 characterised in that, ~~wherein the belt platform (11) is supported from the ground by integral leg structures (12, 13; 112, 113, 120, 121) defining two pairs of support legs disposed adjacent opposite ends of the platform (11) respectively and the platform support arrangement are separate sheet metal components.~~

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding Claims characterised in that the frame of the conveyor is substantially free of~~ claim 1, wherein ~~said conveyor further comprises retaining means for coupling said belt platform on said platform support arrangement.~~

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding Claims where characterised in that the platform (11) includes spaced parallel elongate channel-shaped side beams (14, 15) arranged with their open faces mutually presented~~ claim 4, ~~wherein said retaining means is free from welds, threaded fasteners and surfaces which are horizontal in use.~~

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A conveyor as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding Claims characterised by a belt roller assembly (17, 18) supported at each end of the platform (11) respectively~~ claim 4, wherein said retaining means comprises one or more moulded synthetic resin members.

7-14. (CANCELLED)

15. (NEW) A conveyor comprising a belt platform for supporting a belt of the conveyor and a platform support arrangement for supporting the belt platform from the ground, wherein:

substantially the whole of said belt platform is formed as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal;

said platform support arrangement is a unitary component formed from a single sheet of metal; and

the surfaces of said conveyor are shaped to promote self cleaning and draining by minimising or substantially avoiding surfaces which are horizontal in use.

16. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are integrally formed from a single sheet of metal.

17. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are separate sheet metal components.

18. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the platform includes spaced parallel elongate channel-shaped side beams arranged with their open faces mutually presented.

19. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 18 comprising a belt roller assembly supported at each end of the platform, wherein said roller assemblies are slidably received within the channel sections of the side beams.

20. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 19, wherein at least one of said roller assemblies includes extensible means whereby its roller can be moved towards or away from the opposite end roller to vary the tension in a belt entrained, in use, around the rollers.

21. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claims 19, wherein detachable cover members are fitted over the ends of the side beams and the associated parts of the roller assemblies to shield these regions against ingress of foreign matter.

22. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the belt platform is supported from the ground by integral leg structures defining two pairs of support legs disposed adjacent opposite ends of the platform respectively.

23. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 22, wherein each leg structure of the platform support arrangement includes a first component integral with one of said side beams and a second component fixed in use to the other of said side beams by way of a retainer.

24. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 23, wherein the or each retainer is a moulded synthetic resin component.

25. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 22, wherein each leg structure includes first and second ground engaging parts disposed respectively generally beneath said first and second side rails in use.

26. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 25, characterised in that each said ground engaging part carries a ground engaging foot, at least one of the ground engaging feet being vertically adjustable in use.

27. (NEW) A conveyor as claimed in claim 26, characterised in that said ground engaging feet are moulded synthetic resin members and are engaged with the respective leg parts as a push-fit.

28. (NEW) A method of constructing a conveyor, the method comprising:
 forming a belt platform as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal;
 forming a platform support arrangement as a unitary component from a single sheet of metal; and

supporting said belt platform on said platform support arrangement substantially without welding or using threaded fasteners.

29. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the belt platform and the platform support arrangement are formed as an integral unit from a single sheet of metal.

30. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 28, wherein the surfaces of the belt platform and of the platform support arrangement are formed to have a shape that promotes self cleaning and draining by minimising or substantially avoiding surfaces which are horizontal in use.